

15 MAG 3122

ORIGINAL

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

SAGAR K. RAVI

Assistant United States Attorney

Before: THE HONORABLE GABRIEL W. GORENSTEIN  
United States Magistrate Judge  
Southern District of New York

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA : SEALED COMPLAINT

- v. -

: Violations of 18 U.S.C.  
§§ 1343, 1349 and 2

MARCOS ELIAS,

:

COUNTY OF OFFENSE:

Defendant.

:

NEW YORK

- - - - - x

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, ss.:

CHRISTOPHER S. DELZOTTO, being duly sworn, deposes and says that he is a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and charges as follows:

COUNT ONE

(Conspiracy to Commit Wire Fraud)

1. From at least in or about June 2014, up to and including at least in or about July 2015, in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere, MARCOS ELIAS, the defendant, and others known and unknown, willfully and knowingly, did combine, conspire, confederate, and agree together and with each other to commit wire fraud, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343.

2. It was a part and object of the conspiracy that MARCOS ELIAS, the defendant, and others known and unknown, willfully and knowingly, having devised and intending to devise a scheme and artifice to defraud, and for obtaining money and property by means of false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises, would and did transmit and cause to be transmitted by means of wire, radio, and television communication in interstate and foreign commerce, writings, signs, signals, pictures, and sounds for the purpose of executing such scheme and artifice, and by such conduct, would

and did affect a financial institution, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343.

(Title 18, United States Code, Section 1349.)

COUNT TWO  
(Wire Fraud)

3. From at least in or about June 2014, up to and including at least in or about July 2015, in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere, MARCOS ELIAS, the defendant, willfully and knowingly, having devised and intending to devise a scheme and artifice to defraud, and for obtaining money and property by means of false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises, did transmit and cause to be transmitted by means of wire, radio, and television communication in interstate and foreign commerce, writings, signs, signals, pictures, and sounds for the purpose of executing such scheme and artifice, and by such conduct, did affect a financial institution, to wit, ELIAS fraudulently obtained funds in a brokerage account at a financial institution by means of false and fraudulent pretenses and representations transmitted through email using the Internet.

(Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1343 and 2.)

The bases for my knowledge and for the foregoing charges are, in part, as follows:

4. I am a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and I have been personally involved in the investigation of this matter. This affidavit is based upon my personal participation in the investigation of this matter, my conversations with law enforcement agents, witnesses and others, as well as my examination of reports and records. Because this affidavit is being submitted for the limited purpose of establishing probable cause, it does not include all the facts that I have learned during the course of my investigation. Where the contents of documents and the actions, statements and conversations of others are reported herein, they are reported in substance and in part, except where otherwise indicated.

5. Based on my conversations with representatives of a financial institution headquartered in New York, New York (the "Firm") and my review of documents and records from the Firm, I have learned, among other things, the following:

a. Since at least in or about 2012, a Brazilian company (the "Client") held a brokerage account in the name of the Client (the "Client Account") with the Firm. The Firm's records listed the contact for the Client Account in the name of a Client employee ("Client Employee-1") with a contact email ending in the domain "@[Client].com.br."

b. From at least in or about January 2013, up to and including in or about June 2014, there had been no trading activity in the Client Account, which had deposits totaling approximately \$752,000 in cash during that period.

c. On or about December 16, 2013, Client Employee-1 sent an email from the domain "@[Client].com.br." to the Firm that stated the following, in substance and in part: "I'm writing about the balance of our account with [the Firm]. We want to bring the money back to Brasil and close our account since we are longer trading." The Firm responded, in substance and in part, that the Firm would need a letter or document identifying the authorized individuals that could take such action on behalf of the Client Account.

d. Beginning in or about June 2014, the Firm began remediating accounts that were missing certain documentation, including the Client Account. On or about June 19, 2014, a managing director at the Firm ("Firm Employee-1") instructed a co-conspirator not named herein ("CC-1"), who was a senior vice president at the Firm in Chicago, Illinois at the time, to contact the Client in order to obtain the missing documentation for the Client Account.

e. On or about June 20, 2014, CC-1 received an email in CC-1's Firm email account containing certain account information regarding the Client Account, including the account number, opening date, account name, mailing address, legal address, and phone number. Within approximately two hours after receiving this email, CC-1 forwarded the email containing the Client Account information to CC-1's personal email account ending in the domain "@gmail.com" (the "CC-1 Personal Email Account"), and then CC-1 forwarded the same email from the CC-1 Personal Email Account to an email account in the name of MARCOS ELIAS, the defendant.

f. Subsequently, on or about June 20, 2014, CC-1 represented to several of the Firm's employees, including a senior vice president in New York, New York ("Firm Employee-2"), that CC-1 was in contact with the Client. For example, CC-1

emailed Firm Employee-2 stating, in substance and in part, that CC-1 had spoken with the Client's money manager. CC-1 also asked Firm Employee-2, in substance and in part, the following questions in the same email: (1) Is the Client receiving any type of communications from the Firm?; (2) Is the Firm sending the Client statements?; (3) What is required for the Client to start trading again?; and (4) What if the Client asks for a wire? Firm Employee-2 responded to CC-1's email by stating, in substance and in part, that the Client had no web access to the Client Account, was not receiving email statements, and that Firm Employee-2 assumed that the Client had been receiving monthly statements in the mail to an address in Brazil.

g. Subsequently, on or about June 20, 2014, CC-1 emailed Firm Employee-2 asking, in substance and in part, whether Firm Employee-2 could confirm that the Firm was sending statements to the Client and when the last statement was sent out. CC-1 also informed Firm Employee-2, in substance and in part, that the Client would like to know the exact amount of money in the Client Account and what was required to wire the money to the Client's bank account in Luxembourg. Firm Employee-2 confirmed the same day that statements had been mailed to the Client and that the last statement was mailed in June. In addition, Firm Employee-2 informed CC-1, in substance and in part, that there was \$752,384.57 in the Client Account, that a request with banking instructions should be sufficient to initiate a wire transfer, and that the Firm did not have an authorized signature list for the Client so a request on the Client's letterhead would be ideal.

h. On or about June 23, 2014, ELIAS sent an email to a Client employee ("Client Employee-2") that stated the following, in substance and in part, in Portuguese<sup>1</sup>: "I am Marcos Elias, manager of resources in Sao Paulo. The Managing Director of [the Firm] asked for my assistance in contacting you as you ([the Client]) have an account in the aforementioned institution with a registration needing completion. . . . I await your response." The signature block on the email indicates that ELIAS works with a company located in São Paulo, Brazil. I have further been informed by the Firm that ELIAS was not authorized by a managing director of the Firm to contact Client Employee-2 regarding the Client Account.

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<sup>1</sup> This quotation and certain others set forth in this Affidavit are based on a draft English translation.



i. On or about June 25, 2014, CC-1 received an email from an email address that appeared to contain the name of Client Employee-2 (the "Client Email Account"), which stated the following, in substance and in part: "Dear Evandro, Please follow the instructions of the attached file. BR."<sup>2</sup> The attached file purports to be a letter on the Client's letterhead stating the following, in substance and in part: "To [the Firm] Please, I would like you to wire all cash balance in my account: [Client name and Client Account number], according to the instructions below. . . . Please also close my account after wire is done. Thank you. Sincerely, [purported signature of Client Employee-2]" (the "June 25 Wire Instructions"). The June 25 Wire Instructions directed that the funds in the Client Account be transferred to an account in the name of "Carrol Gardens LTD" ("Bank Account-1") at a bank with a main office in New York, New York ("Bank-1"). CC-1 responded to the Client Email Account stating, in substance and in part, that CC-1 would send the instructions "right away to my client service area." As set forth below, Client Employee-2 was not authorized to sign documents on behalf of the Client and the June 25 Wire Instructions were falsified and contained a forged signature for Client Employee-2. Accordingly, I believe that an individual falsely claiming to be Client Employee-2 created and used the Client Email Account in order to transmit the falsified June 25 Wire Instructions to CC-1.

j. Subsequently, on or about June 25, 2014, CC-1 forwarded the June 25 Wire Instructions to Firm Employee-2 and stated, in substance and in part, that CC-1 thought the swift code or ABA routing number was missing from the instructions and that CC-1 would request that the instructions be resent following the standard wire format. Firm Employee-2 responded to CC-1 asking, in substance and in part, who "Carrol Gardens, Ltd" was, and stating that the funds needed to be paid to an account in the name of the Client. CC-1 subsequently emailed the Client Email Account the same day and stated the following, in substance and in part: "Please redo the letter with the complete wire instructions like below: . . . FFC: (if for further credit of . . . it might be he [sic] '[Client] Com. Ind.', or whatever your banker provides."

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<sup>2</sup> This email appears to have been intended to create the impression that it was sent by Client Employee-2 on behalf of the Client, but the initials of Client Employee-2 in the signature of the email were in the wrong order.

k. Subsequently, on or about June 25, 2014, CC-1 sent an email to two employees of the Firm ("Firm Employee-3" and "Firm Employee-4") and ELIAS that stated the following, in substance and in part: "[Firm Employee-3 and Firm Employee-4], I'd like to introduce you to a great friend of mine and future client of [the Firm], Marcos Elias. Marcos is practically my brother! He wants to open an account at [the Firm] . . . ." On or about June 27, 2015, ELIAS responded to Firm Employee-3 and Firm Employee-4, copying CC-1, and stated, in substance and in part, that ELIAS was creating a new company in Panama and would send documentation to open a new account in no more than 15 days.

l. On or about June 26, 2014, CC-1 received an email from "[first name of Client Employee-2] @[Client]indcom.com.br" (the "Client-indcom Email Account") that stated the following, in substance and in part: "Dear Evandro, I'll be providing instructions to wire transfer the total amount deposited at [the Client's] account at [the Firm] in the next 15 days and asking yourselves the kindness of closing it right after the wire transfer is completed and balance is zeroed. Best wishes, [Client Employee-2]." CC-1 responded to the Client-indcom Email Account by stating, in substance and in part, that CC-1 would wait for the instructions. As set forth further below, I understand that the domain for the Client's email addresses is "@[Client].com.br" and not the domain "@[Client]indcom.com.br." Accordingly, I believe the Client-indcom Email Account was used in order to create the false impression that emails sent from the Client-indcom Email Account were sent on behalf of the Client by Client Employee-2.

m. On or about July 2, 2014, CC-1 received an email from the Client-indcom Email Account that stated the following, in substance and in part: "Evandro just to ratify here from one week we'll be wire transferring [sic] total amount of [CLIENT] IND COM and then proceed to closing the account Best Regards, and thanks for the prompt support, [first two initials and last name of Client Employee-2]." CC-1 responded to the Client-indcom Email Account with the following, in substance and in part: "Agreed . . . Tks."

n. On or about July 15, 2014, CC-1 received another email from the Client-indcom Email Account that stated the following, in substance and in part: "DEAR EVANDRO PLEASE FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS ACCORDING TO THE ATTACHED FILE BEST REGARDS [last name of Client Employee-2]." Similarly to the June 25 Wire Instructions, the attached file purports to be a letter on

the Client's letterhead stating the following, in substance and in part: "To [the Firm] Please, I would like you to wire all cash balance in my account: [Client name and Client Account number], according to the instructions below. . . . Please also close my account after wire is done. Thank you. Sincerely, [purported signature of Client Employee-2]" (the "July 15 Wire Instructions"). The July 15 Wire Instructions directed that the funds in the Client Account be transferred to an account in the name of "[CLIENT] COM. IND." ("Bank Account-2") at a bank in Luxembourg ("Bank-2"). CC-1 responded to the Client-indcom Email Account by writing "Will do."

o. On or about July 15, 2014, CC-1 forwarded the July 15 Wire Instructions to Firm Employee-2 and requested that Firm Employee-2 execute the wire instructions and close the Client Account.

p. Firm Employee-2 subsequently initiated the execution of the July 15 Wire Instructions (the "July 15 Wire Transfer"), and the \$752,384.57 in the Client Account was transferred to Bank Account-2 at Bank-2 in Luxembourg.

q. On or about May 11, 2015, Client Employee-1 advised the Firm, in substance and in part, that Client Employee-2 worked at the Client but that the July 15 Wire Instructions were falsified and that the signature of Client Employee-2 had been forged. Furthermore, Client Employee-1 advised that Client Employee-2 was not authorized to sign any documents for the Client.

6. Based on my conversations with Client-Employee-2, I have learned, among other things, the following:

a. Client Employee-2 has never been authorized to initiate wire transfers on behalf of the Client and has never initiated wire transfers on behalf of the Client.

b. Client Employee-2 did not create the Client Email Account and has never used the Client Email Account.

c. Client Employee-2 did not create the Client-indcom Email Account and has never used the Client-indcom Email Account.

d. Client Employee-2 did not sign the June 25 Wire Instructions or the July 15 Wire Instructions.

e. The signature of Client-Employee-2 on the June 25 Wire Instructions and the July 15 Wire Instructions does not belong to Client Employee-2 and was forged.

f. Client Employee-2 has never spoken with MARCOS ELIAS, the defendant, or CC-1.

7. Based on my conversations with Client Employee-1 and another Client employee ("Client Employee-3"), I have learned, among other things, the following:

a. Client Employee-1 and Client Employee-3 were the only employees of the Client that would have interacted with the Firm regarding the Client Account.

b. The Client did not initiate any wire transfers with respect to the funds in the Client Account.

c. Other than the Client Account, the Client does not have any bank or brokerage accounts outside of Brazil and does not have any accounts in Luxembourg.

d. Client Employee-1 and Client Employee-3 have never spoken with MARCOS ELIAS, the defendant, or CC-1.

e. The Client's email addresses have the domain name "@[Client].br.com." The Client does not have email addresses with the domain name "@[Client]indcom.com.br."

f. The Client never received the funds wired from the Client Account to Bank-2 and is currently working to locate the funds.

8. Based on my investigation of Bank Account-1 at Bank-1 in New York, I have learned the following:

a. Bank Account-1 was held in the name of a British Virgin Islands ("BVI") company.

b. Bank Account-1 was beneficially owned by an individual who has been a business associate of MARCOS ELIAS, the defendant, since at least in or about October 2013.

c. Bank Account-1 was closed on May 29, 2015, approximately 18 days after the Client advised the Firm that the July 15 Wire Instructions were falsified.



9. Based on my investigation of Bank Account-2 at Bank-2 in Luxembourg, I have learned the following:

a. Bank Account-2 was opened in or about July 2014 and held by "[Client name] Com. Ind. Corp," a company with a name similar to the Client that was constituted in Panama on or about July 7, 2014, approximately a week before the July 15 Wire Transfer.

b. On or about July 18, 2014, Bank Account-2 was credited with \$752,384.57 from the Client Account in connection with the July 15 Wire Transfer.

c. The beneficial owner of Bank Account-2 was MARCOS ELIAS, the defendant. Based on my training and experience, I believe Bank Account-2 was held by a company with a name similar to the Client in order to create the false impression that the funds in the Client Account were being transferred to an account beneficially owned by the Client when in fact such account was beneficially owned by ELIAS.

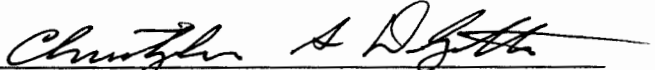
d. On or about May 27, 2015, approximately two weeks after the Client advised the Firm that the July 15 Wire Instructions were falsified, Bank Account-2 was closed.

10. Based on my review of records received from Google, Inc., I have learned, among other things, the following:

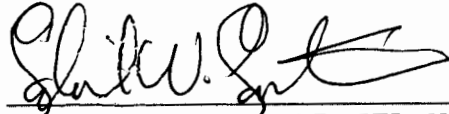
a. The Client Email Account was created on or about June 25, 2014, the same day that the Client Email Account was used to send the falsified June 25 Wire Instructions to CC-1.

b. On or about June 26, 2014, the Client Email Account was used to register the domain "@[Client]indcom.com.br" with a company in Brazil. Such domain is the same as the domain for the Client-indcom Email Account.

WHEREFORE, deponent respectfully requests that a warrant be issued for the arrest of MARCOS ELIAS, the defendant, and that he be arrested and imprisoned or bailed, as the case may be.

  
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Christopher S. Delzotto  
Special Agent  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Sworn to before me this  
2nd day of September, 2015



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THE HONORABLE GABRIEL W. GORENSTEIN  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK